

REMARKS

Reconsideration of pending claims 1-30 is requested. Claims 1 and 26 are independent claims. Support for amendments to claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 26 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0024-0027] of the specification.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 23, 2003.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-7, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18 and 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,709,382 ("Sones"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that Sones fails to teach or suggest, "***at least two carrier layers and corresponding photosensors are stacked alternately forming a single multilayer image detector,***" as set forth in claim 1.

As shown in FIG. 4 of Sones, the detector includes a first detector array 86 and a second detector array 88. The second detector array 88 is positioned behind the first detector array 86.¹ The first detector array 86 and the second detector array 88 of Sones are ***two individual detectors***, but not "***stacked***

¹ Sones, Col. 10, ll. 1-14.

alternately forming a single multilayer image detector," as in claim 1.

Therefore, Sones fails to anticipate claim 1.

For reasons somewhat similar to those set forth above regarding claim 1, Sones also fails to anticipate claim 26. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18, 25 and 27-30 are also distinguishable over Sones at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 or 26.

Withdrawal of this rejection is kindly requested.

FURTHER PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner further rejects claims 5, 10, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sones and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0017612 ("Yu"); and claims 8, 9 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sones and U.S. Patent No. 6,285,029 ("Shahar"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that even assuming *arguendo* that Sones could be combined with Yu and/or Shahar (which Applicants do not admit), Yu and Shahar each suffer from the same deficiencies as discussed above with regard to Sones.

In particular, with regard to claim 9, the Examiner correctly acknowledges that Sones fails to teach or suggest, "***the layer thicknesses of the photosensors increase in the order in which the electromagnetic radiation is adapted to pass through them,***" as set forth in claim 9. The Examiner relies upon Shahar to allegedly teach this feature.

Shahar discloses increasing the number of individual modules (scintillators) included in a stack-type detector to effectively increase the thickness of the detector.² This is distinct from the detector of claim 9 because in the detector of claim 9 the individual layer thicknesses of the photosensors increase, whereas in the detector of Shahar the ***number of modules in the stack detector increase***. In Shahar, ***no change in thickness between modules (scintillators) is made***.

Therefore, even assuming arguendo that Sones could be combined with Shahar (which Applicants do not admit) the alleged combination would still be deficient with regard to claim 9. The alleged combination of Sones and Shahar is also deficient with regard to claims 20, 22 and 24 for at least somewhat similar reasons.

Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

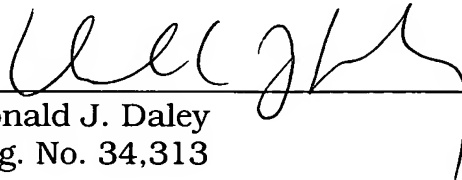
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

² Shahar, col. 7, ll. 1-7.

Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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